



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 29

JULY, 1979

NUMBER 6



Conference Minister, **BILL ANDES**,
and his wife, **CAREY**

Conference Minister Announces Retirement

Southeast Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. William J. Andes and his wife, Carey, have made plans to retire on April 1, 1980. Making the announcement at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Conference, Dr. Andes and Carey received a standing ovation from Conference delegates.

Dr. Andes began his tenure with the Southeast Conference at the 1966 Annual Meeting of the Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Following the excellent precedent set by former Conference Superintendent, James Lightbourne, Dr. Andes continued this excellence in leadership.

Dr. Andes found himself in one of the largest Conferences of the United Church with churches widely dispersed and diverse in Christian faith and practice. In addition to the challenges of racial integration and integration into the larger United Church family, the Conference still faced the challenge of becoming financially self-sufficient.

After 13 years of leadership, Dr. Andes has helped to knit together over the vast distances of the Conference a web of

[Continued on Page 2]

"Because We Are One People" Theme of 13th Annual Meeting

Some 215 persons journeyed to Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama to attend the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, held Friday through Sunday, June 8-10, 1979.

Begun through the aid of the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church, and now related to the United Church of Christ, Talladega College proved to be a most congenial host, providing not only eating, but residential and recreational facilities as well.

The Annual Meeting got underway on Friday evening with the convening of four "Review Committees" to which delegates were assigned. The Review Committees functioned not only to overview and critique, but to introduce delegates to the past year's efforts of each of the Conference Commissions — Outreach, Church and Ministry and Christian Education — as well as to the work of the Conference Staff.

Following early morning worship which preceeded breakfast on Saturday, the Annual Meeting was officially called to order by Moderator Dr. David Beebe. Following a roll call of churches and ministers and consideration of initial business, an impressive group of fraternal delegates presented their greetings, representing the fellowships of the Episcopal, Lutheran, Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian Churches and including the Bishop of the Birmingham Diocese who brought greetings from the Roman Catholic Church.

After a warm welcome by Dr. Joseph N. Gayles, President of Talladega College, Dr. Peggy Way presented the major address of the Annual Meeting on the subject of "Human Sexuality." Her remarks, which were stimulating and provocative, were most warmly received.

Following a discussion of issues facing the 12th General Synod, the business meeting of the Conference continued and was punctuated by three special reports, the first of which honored two women who had served as long time field missionaries for the United Church and its predecessor denominations — Marguerite Davison and Annie Campbell. Rev. Annie Campbell was the 1977 recipient of the first Antoin-

ette Brown Award given to women who have excelled in their ministries of service.

The second special report was focused on the problems of aging, while the final report centered on the problems of people

[Continued on Page 2]



[top] UCC General Synod Moderator, shares a laugh with James Fields. [bottom] Some of the 215 participants in the 13th Annual Meeting.





Installation of Southeast Conference Officers

Annual Meeting

— Continued from Page 1

with handicaps.

In a separate setting, Dr. Peggy Way "rapped" with the more than 25 young people present about a variety of issues that ranged all the way from questions about human sexuality to questions about rock music, use of the Bible and the Viet Nam war!

At afternoon's end, after a very warm and humid day, delegates were ready for the bountiful and relaxing picnic dinner held on the grounds of the campus.

After an evening business meeting, interrupted by the graduation ceremonies of Ole Thermometer U, Mrs. Joseph Watkins addressed issues concerning the International Year of the Child followed by a presentation of new church development

by Tom Walston. The day was completed by a worship service led by the youth of Midway Congregational Church, UCC.

The Sunday morning business meeting, enlivened by discussion and adoption of two resolutions (printed elsewhere in this Newsletter), was completed in record time. The final event of the Conference was Sunday morning worship during which Rev. Norman W. Jackson, Executive Associate to the President of the UCC, was the preacher. Doing his usual excellent job on the organ was Franklin Thomas and a very special attraction was an excellent choir, composed of Conference delegates, and led by Milton Hurst, lay pastor of the Talladega UCC and Moderator of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Following lunch, delegates, ministers, friends and youth departed for their respective homes.

Conference

Minister — Continued from Page 1

friendship and Christian commitment that crosses lines of gender, race and age. Understanding itself to be a vital part of the United Church of Christ, the Conference now is not only financially self-sufficient, but has made a commitment to new church starts and the financial needs that program entails.

In addition to providing support to the loneliness and long hours of Bill's position, Carey Andes has been ever-present at the innumerable meetings of the Conference as well as serving, for many years, as Editor of the *Southeast News*.

The Conference accepted Dr. Andes resignation as of April 1, 1980 with regret and with deep appreciation for his ministry in our midst.



An excellent choir, composed of Conference delegates, sang at Sunday morning worship.

New Officers Installed

New officers were elected and installed at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, held at Talladega College, June 8-10. The new officers include:

- Moderator — Rev. Henry Tuttle
- Vice-Moderator — Mrs. Freda Brown
- Secretary — Mrs. Jane Cummings
- Treasurer — Mr. J.R. Wilson
- Past Moderator — Dr. David Beebe
- Church and Ministry Coordinator — Rev. Walter Hall
- Christian Education Coordinator — Ms. Yubenia Prigmore
- Outreach Coordinator — Rev. Floyd Carmack
- Members at Large — Mr. Milton Hurst, Rev. James T. McAdams, Mr. Franklin Thomas
- 1981 General Synod — Rev. Harold Auler
- 1982 General Synod — Mr. Mark Frey
- 1983 General Synod — Mr. Marlbro Roberts

Did You Know

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer,
and even once say "I."
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer,
and even once say "My."
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer,
and not include another.
You cannot ask for daily bread,
and not include a brother.
For others are included in each
and every plea,
From the very beginning, it never
once says "Me."

— Anonymous



REV. NORMAN JACKSON

Strong Challenge Conference Finances Pose

A record 1979 Conference Budget of \$162,332.64 was discussed and approved at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference.

Reflecting on the challenge of this year's budget, Finance Chairman Rev. Henry Tuttle noted that we came very close to meeting our 1978 OCWM goal of \$90,000 with total receipts of \$87,347.22. Of this total, \$62,191.23 was retained by the Conference and \$25,155.99 was forwarded to the National Offices. With this record of achievement behind us, Rev. Tuttle was optimistic that the 1979 OCWM Goal of \$98,000 could be reached with the help and support of all the Conference churches.

Rev. Tuttle further noted that the increases in the OCWM Goal were largely a result of the effects of inflation. In addition, he pointed out that the Conference must raise the salary level of the Conference Minister in order to attract a person with qualifications similar to the present Conference Minister, W.J. Andes — a fact reiterated by Conference Stewardship Consultant, Rev. Ed Mehlhaff and Outreach Coordinator, Rev. Floyd Carmack.

A presentation on finances for New Church Development was also outlined by Mr. Tom Walston. Walston noted that above and beyond giving to OCWM, some \$8,000 must be secured in 1979 and \$12,000 in 1980 if new church starts are to be financially feasible. Funds for New Church Development are gratefully accepted from individuals as well as churches and may be sent in care of the Conference Offices.



REV. ANNIE CAMPBELL
chatting with a delegate



REV. DR. PEGGY WAY

Dr. Way Addresses Issue of Human Sexuality

The Major Address of the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Peggy Way, a UCC clergyperson, and an Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN. Dr. Way entitled her address: "Human Sexuality: Context, Contraries, Creativities."

A noted writer, speaker and teacher in the field of pastoral care and the Christian response to human sexuality, Dr. Way noted the predominant position that the topic of human sexuality presently holds within the culture. She further critiqued the United Church response, in the form of two publications produced by members of the UCC and representing divergent views of human sexuality: *Human Sexuality — A Preliminary Study* and the publication of the United Church Persons for Biblical Witness. Reflecting on the two publications, Dr. Way, who helped to produce *Human Sexuality — A Preliminary Study*, found strengths and weaknesses in both publications.

In response to the divergence of views held about human sexuality, Dr. Way pointed out the presence of divergence of opinion, the collapse of which is neither possible nor desirable. Rather, she called for the church to cultivate in its members the ability to listen to divergence of opinion as they together seek to understand and to know God's Word. This might well result, on the issue of the Christian response to human sexuality, in the formation of what

— 3 —

First Habitat Home In Tennessee Dedicated

Dedication services were held on Saturday, April 21 for the first Habitat for Humanity home to be completed in the Morgan-Scott Project. Located in Morgan County, Tennessee, the new 3-bedroom home cost \$16,600 including the 1.9 acre lot. The happy new owners of the home are local resident, Mary and John Hawn.

Habitat for Humanity is a program, being conducted in Africa as well as in the United States, whose aim is to provide good housing for those who otherwise could not afford to have it. Payment for materials and labor comes from donations from churches and individuals. Homes are then sold to families (screened on the basis of need) to be paid without interest over a period of time (usually 20 years). As payments are received, they are used to build more homes thus creating a revolving utilization of funds.

In addition to providing new and renovated homes, Habitat For Humanity also provides jobs and job training, developing new skills and new industry in areas suffering from economic depression.

This is especially needed in Morgan and Scott Counties, Tennessee, where 45 percent of residential families have incomes too low to secure adequate housing and where 40 percent of the housing is judged substandard (against a state average of 17 percent).

The Morgan-Scott Habitat Committee is proceeding, as funds come in, with two more homes, one near the Hawn's in Morgan County and the second 18 miles away in Scott County.

For further information about this program, write to Habitat For Humanity, P.O. Box 234, Robbins, Tennessee 37852. Contributions are always gladly received. Arrangements for group visits and youth work camps can also be made.

Dr. Way called "a theology of sadness and goodbyes."

Dr. Way noted that because of its openness and flexibility, she holds great hope that the United Church can creatively wrestle — rather than try to resolve — this issue.

Dr. Way was accompanied by her husband, UCC clergyperson Rev. William Way who is Director of Monroe-Harding Children's Home in Nashville.



Conference Minister, W. J. Andes, checking arrangements with youth who served Sunday morning communion.

Growing Older — And Better

Do you remember the old saying, "I'm not getting older, just getting better?" The truth is that each one of us is getting older. It is also true that life for many older persons needs to get better! For the first time in human history, society has to deal with the fact that there are large numbers of older persons and that these older persons have certain rights that are often thoughtlessly violated.

Now, the Office for Church in Society of the United Church of Christ has published a **Guide to Rights of the Elderly**, a 24-page booklet that identifies where we are as a society in securing for our elderly the right to food, the right to housing, the right to health care. The **Guide** also includes an analysis of current legislation, dealing

with such rights, a historical and theological overview of the problem, suggestions for how a congregation can become politically active on behalf of the elderly, and a list of resources.

Copies of **Guide to Rights of the Elderly** may be ordered for \$1 each, or 75c each for 10 or more, from the Office for Church in Society, 297 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010.

New Concordance Available

A new Analytical Concordance to the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published this past April by Westminster Press of Philadelphia. This concordance, prepared by Clinton Morrison, Professor of New Testament, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, is the first to the RSV Bible that lists all the English words in the New Testament, indicated the Greek word or words translated, and arranges the quotations of passages of English under the Greek words they translate.

Bruce M. Metzger, chairperson of the National Council of Churches Revised Standard Version Bible Committee, praised the 14 years of painstaking labor Professor Morrison went through in the effort: "It is now possible for any reader to trace the different meanings of the Greek word in the varying contexts of the New Testament as translated in the RSV," he stated. "Thus the variety of nuances of the original language of the writers of the New Testament, hitherto available only to scholars, will be accessible to all in a most convenient format."

— 4 —

Annual Meeting Adopts Resolutions

Two resolutions were introduced, discussed and adopted by the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference.

Noting the recent increase in activity by the Ku Klux Klan in the Alabama area, the first resolution, adopted by unanimous vote, stated that "we the delegates of the Southeast Conference ... do hereby deplore the recent increase in Ku Klux Klan activity and resolve further, to urge our local congregations and all Christians everywhere to condemn and censure Klan intimidation and terrorism as unconscionable, ungodly, undemocratic, and un-American."

The second resolution, which provoked more debate and which passed by a majority vote, stated that "we, the delegates of the Southeast Conference ... 'in the spirit of speaking the truth and love,' do hereby declare that our Christian brother Robert Graham, the Governor of the State of Florida, is censured for his actions in the execution of John Spenselink and his continued willingness to execute others in Florida. Our prayers go out to the Governor, and we hope that he will return to the stated position of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, his denomination, on the death penalty and join us in our efforts to abolish the death penalty throughout this country."

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number USPS — 504480

Published monthly October and November; February to July, inclusive; bi-monthly August-September and December-January, by and for the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 per year

Vol. 29 JULY, 1979 No. 6

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359



Youth enjoyed games and dancing on Friday night.

Christian Education Priorities Stated

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Staff with Christian Education Responsibilities met recently with representatives of 35 Conferences to review, update and look at Christian Education in the 1980's. In addition to lively interchanges with the staff representatives of JED Share, the Division of Publication, Pilgrim Press and the UCC representatives of CE:SA, "Future Perspectives on Church Education" were shared from the viewpoint of the seminary, UCBHM, the Association of United Church Educators and the Conferences.

Workshops on: Youth Ministry, Education in Churches of Small Membership, Confirmation, Resources for Minorities and Outdoor Ministries were held to inform, share and discuss designs, resources and needs.

Regional caucuses met to identify their needs in church education and then a prioritized composite list of the issues was drawn to give direction to the Leadership Strategy Team and UCBHM in the 1980's. The top eight priority issues are:

1. Continuing development CE:SA
2. National collaboratively developed youth ministry
3. Training and introduction of confirmation education resources
4. Clergy and the vocation of teaching
5. Family life and marriage enrichment, Nurture of members
6. Support for church education volunteers, especially at the Conference level
7. Newly developed adult relationships and lifestyles
8. Worship in Education, contemplation and spiritual life

The Southern Region elected as its representative to the Leadership Strategy Team: Rollin Russel from South Central Conference.

The possibility of a UCC National Youth Event in 1980 was discussed and input as to the purpose, objectives and location of such an event was given by the Conference representatives. It was concluded that further consensus, analysis, discussion and planning is needed before such an event can become a reality.

— Juanita Velasco

Variety of Degees Conferred by OTU



DR. ANGUS McANDREWS
preparing to administer the Third degree.

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference provided a sufficient excuse for Ole Thermometer U, a revered and profound institution, to once again hold its annual Graduation Ceremonies. Meeting in the chapel of Talladega College, facilities that proved to be adequate for a roasting, OTU raised the temperature by innumerable degrees which it conferred and otherwise "laid it on" certain well deserving lay and clergy candidates whose actions have extinguished them during the past year.

Sporting a new paint job with the school colors of chartreuse and plaid, OTU's school bus proved capable, for the first time in four years, of transporting the

school band and chorus, the seven individuals of which were happy to finally make it to graduation festivities.

Joining Dean Warren Blankenhorn and President Stephen Gray once again this year, was Dr. Angus McAndrews. Visiting Professor of Haggis in Scotland, who, according to this year's fashion, had lowered his kilt to three inches below his knees. Circling the Birmingham airport at a high altitude — in a plane — was Co-Dean Homer McEwen who did not come down in time to make it to the ceremony.

Nevertheless, Dr. McAndrews plunged ahead with a seemingly unending stream of oratory to award first, second and an occasional third degree to the following chosen few:

For her continual discipleship throughout the Southeast on behalf of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, and for her consciousness that when one says a "he," one might mean a "she," Rev. Joyce Myers was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sororital Apostolicity. And for his work — scattered as it is — for the President of the United Church, Rev. Norman Jackson was duly honored as a Doctor of Peripatetic Obfuscation.

Not escaping the generosity of OTU was Milton Hurst whose many hats as administrator, lay pastor and Moderator of the General Synod were recognized by the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Multiple Modericity. And escaping the premises at the appropriate moment, the Rev. Dr. Peggy Way had to be awarded in absentia the degree of Doctor of Liberated Fence-Sitting Feminology.

The festivities ended with Dean Blankenhorn chastising the degree recipients and telling them to go home and sin no more.



Representatives of the Western Cluster of churches in Alabama present Mark Frey [right] a check for the work of Habitat For Humanity.

Remembering Past Servants

The following pastors and laypersons, members of the Southeast Conference and the larger United Church of Christ family, who provided key leadership in the churches or institutions which they served, were remembered in song and silent prayer at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference.

The following persons, who died within the last year, were remembered:

- Rev. R. Gary Peters — First Church, Columbus, GA
- Loomis Patrick — Former chairman of UCBWM
- Dr. S. Larry Johnson — Pastor Emeritus, Pilgrim Church, Birmingham
- Roy Walker — Faithful pastor in East Alabama for 35 years.
- Carl N. Sanford — Central Church, Atlanta
- Clifford Beebe — Father of past moderator, David Beebe
- Dr. John G. Truitt — Past President, Southern Convention of CC Churches
- Mrs. Carl Parker — Widow of a former pastor who served the Southeast Conference
- Mrs. Ruth Hodnett — Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, GA
- Dr. Guy Colbert — leader of North Alabama Association
- Maisie Van Vactor — Missionary of UCBWM
- Mrs. E.G. Shaddix, Sr. — Lanett Church, Lanett, AL
- Mr. Posey Smallwood — Lanett Church, Lanett, AL
- Barrett Ingram — Elder Church, Dadeville, AL
- Martin Mangham — First Church, Atlanta
- Mrs. Carrie Harper — First Church, Atlanta
- Mr. Tom Allen — Rock Stand Church, AL
- Mrs. Louise George — Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN



Franklin Thomas once again provided excellent music.

17/76 Achievement Fund: Final Report

The 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign, an effort of the United Church of Christ to raise funds for six American Missionary Association Colleges and educational institutions overseas, has been officially completed. While funds continue to be contributed, a final report, utilizing figures as of December 31, 1978, has been submitted to Conference churches.

The Campaign summary shows a total of \$9,312,331.03 in contributions, of which \$367,322.68 has been retained by Conference for local scholarships. The Campaign projected response from 70% of the congregations of the United Church of Christ. Contributions were received from 3,624 churches, 56% of UCC congregations. Total Campaign costs were \$2,835,027 out of a budget of \$2,901,265. While overhead equalled 30% of total receipts, fund officers point out that if twice the amount had been raised, the costs would have been the same.

Receipts from the 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign were dispersed in two categories: to AMA colleges and to educational institutions related to the Board for World Ministries.

Contributions to AMA colleges were dispersed as follows:

- LeMoyne-Owen, Memphis: \$604,000. For: financial aid, general support, faculty salary support, library resources, staff development, President's Library Fund and scholarships.
- Dillard University, New Orleans: \$550,298. For: scholarships, faculty support, dormitory furniture, campus improvements, library listening room, repairs of dormitories and financial aid.
- Tougaloo College, Mississippi: \$611,500. All funds were used to help amortize indebtedness on two new dormitories and a new library in order to avoid drawing on operating funds for that purpose.
- Talladega College, Alabama: \$645,000. For: scholarship funds, faculty salary support, library resources, campus security, building renovations and campus improvements.
- Huston-Tillotson, Austin: \$545,000. For: financial aid, library resources, instruction supplies, faculty salary support, campus security and increased maintenance costs.
- Fisk University, Nashville: \$564,310. For: financial aid, scholarships, library resources and faculty salary support.

The Board of World Ministries has dispersed a total of \$1,126,167 to overseas educational institutions. Allocations, listed by region and by country, are as follows:

- Africa: \$399,889.29. (South Africa - \$101,574, Rhodesia - \$95,133, Botswana - \$20,164, Kenya - \$10,620, Zambia - \$53,000, Mozambique - \$3,000, Tanzania - \$10,000, Angola - \$15,000, Ghana - \$20,000 and Regionwide - \$57,230.)
- Latin America: \$129,589.85. (Ecuador - \$23,000, Honduras - \$28,229, Caribbean - \$23,000, Brazil - \$15,120, Mexico - \$10,000, Argentina - \$30,000.)
- Pacific: \$329,608.63. (Hong Kong - \$4,000, Indonesia - \$85,002, Taiwan - \$49,000, Micronesia - \$28,000, Philippines - \$98,156, Regionwide - \$91,773.)
- Southern Asia: \$171,107.86. Bangladesh - \$3,000, India - \$158,547.)

When the 17/76 Achievement Fund was launched, an agreement was reached that Conference could retain up to five percent of receipts to be used in local minority education programs. Retentions to December 31, 1978 totalled nearly \$455,000. The funds have been used in a variety of ways to provide scholarships for needy minority students.

Churches of the Southeast Conference contributed a total of \$64,752.74, an amount equal to over 90% of the Conference's Primary Goal. The SEC was one of only six conferences to reach this level of achievement. A sincere thank you is extended to all who made this record of achievement possible.



Marguerite Davison chatting with George Washington

Food Propsects And Cautions

Favorable weather in North America and in the Soviet Union in 1978 resulted in greater wheat and coarse-grain production than had been earlier anticipated. Unmilled rice, for example was some 375 million tons above the 1977 record. Even the widespread monsoon floods in the Far East that caused severe local crop damage had little adverse impact on Asia's total cereal crop, according to the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) which keeps track of such matters.

However, a recent FAO food outlook report, a sort of early-warning system, cautioned that some developing countries are still threatened by food shortages and others are now menaced by locusts. According to this report, 14 countries currently have food shortages and 19 other countries face possible shortages this year unless their crop-production prospects improve.

In the United Church of Christ, part of every dollar given to Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission goes toward our denominational response to the hunger problem. In addition to ongoing programs which are underwritten by Basic Support for OCWM, other programs are supported through the annual One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering and through special contributions to the UCC Hunger Action Fund.

In gratitude to God for the fact that we can share our abundance, let us constantly remember the hungry of the world through our gifts given through our church.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

St. John's UCC, Cullman, Alabama

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Making the legitimate claim to be "the fastest growing church in the Southeast Conference" is St. John's United Church of Christ, located in Cullman, Alabama.

The church was founded in 1874 when Col. John Cullman, the founder of the city bearing his name, decided to found a

UCC Featured On The Protestant Hour

The United Church of Christ will participate in a 12 week series this summer on "The Protestant Hour," one of radio's oldest religious programs. The Rev. Dr. James R. Smucker, minister of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, is the featured speaker June 24 - Sept. 9th.

"The Protestant Hour" is a weekly 30 minute program with choral music and a sermon that is syndicated nationally to more than 600 stations coast to coast and the Armed Services network overseas.

Executive producer William C. Winslow, New York, says that the UCC series will depart from the traditional hymn format. There will be selections from the classical choral repertory of "Requiems," "Masses," "Te Deums" and "Glorias" as well as selections from Renaissance composers like William Byrd. Also included are folk music, Negro spirituals, and even a jazz rendition of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Dr. Smucker will preach on the theme "Freedom in the Spirit — Our Call From God."

"The Protestant Hour" is produced by the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ.

church in the community. A community church from the beginning, the congregation did affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but differences in policy split the church in 1898 and again in 1928. In 1935, St. John's became affiliated with the Evangelical and Reformed Church and affirmed their membership in the United Church of Christ about 1957.

During the past 11 years, St. John's has seen its membership increase from 200 to over 600 members. The church is proud of its music ministry as well as its morning prayer service offered at 9:00 a.m. seven days a week.

St. John's has a large and active Sunday School with several youth groups and choirs meeting in the evening. The new, younger members have been attracted to the church because of its ecumenical and biblical outreach.

Composed of a large sanctuary and Christian Education building, St. John's recently spent \$150,000 to acquire property adjacent to the church, the use of which will be determined after the debt is retired.

Rev. George Fidler has been pastor of St. John's for 11 years.



REV. GEORGE BENNETT shares a laugh with Juanita Velasco and Conference Vice-Moderator, Freda Brown.

NEWS NOTES

Rev. Harold Auler, pastor of Lanett Congregational-Christian Church, U.C.C. in Lanett, Alabama, celebrated his 35th anniversary of his ordination to the Christian ministry on Sunday, June 17, 1979.

The Outreach Action Group of Knoxville Church of the Savior is preparing to sponsor a refugee family who will be moving into the Knoxville area. Around the world, there are some 13 million refugees who have been forced from their homes.

Frank White, who invented the Corporate Information Center of the National Council of Churches in 1979, died in an auto accident in February. He was 49 years old. His work made it possible for church members who were corporate shareholders to express their concern about corporate ethical practices and work for change.

A.D. Magazine, the official publication of the United Church of Christ, has received three awards presented annually by the Associated Church Press. The magazine was honored for the best news story, for photojournalism, and for general excellence.

The Reverend Miss Leila W. Anderson, known affectionately as the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider" when a field worker for the UCC's Division of Christian Education, recently took a trip to the Far East. "Leila" has been retired for some years now, following many years of service that brought her into the Southeast Conference many times.

Ms. Corretia Davis is the new full time administrative assistant for the Southeast Conference. Assisting her will be Mrs. Virginia McCamey who will split her work time between the Southeast Conference and the Office for Church Life and Leadership. Ms. Davis replaced Mrs. Jane Cummings and Mrs. Barbara Ludwig who faithfully served since the spring of 1978, but left to take up other interests and responsibilities.



China Feeds 960 Million People

A year ago, Jean and Perry Hier, members of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Aberdeen, South Dakota, visited China as members of a study tour arranged by the U.C.-China People's Friendship Association. As a grain dealer, Perry was well qualified to measure how China's agricultural production was doing. As former Mission Interpreters for the United Church Board for World Ministries and as world travelers, Perry and Jean were able to make comparisons with other parts of the world that they had visited. India (1967-8), Japan and African Sahel (1972), and the Soviet Union (1976).

India, the Sahel, and the Soviet Union, says Perry will continually face problems of food production because of the weather and socio-economic factor. China, however, faces food deficiencies principally because of its huge population and its present stance of wanting to become self-sufficient by agriculture alone. The Hiers see changes in this attitude coming as China increases its use of fertilizers, as machines increase agricultural production, and as an increasing percentage of the population becomes active in producing goods that can be traded for food from other parts of the world. One of the expectations of normalizations, of course, is that the United States will become a major trading partner for China

— 8 —

Arab-Israeli Conflict Studied

"If God is dead, as some people now claim," notes a 1967 commentary on the Middle East, "then God died trying to find a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict!" The current Friendship Press study book, *Peace, Justice & Reconciliation in the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Christian Perspective*, offers the reader an opportunity to sit in on a dialogue with seven outstanding Canadian scholars. Their style as ministers of reconciliation is a model of peacemaking scholarship.

Instead of turning to the past and wishing for changes, the authors of *Peace, Justice & Reconciliation* exhibit a looking to the future and working for basic change. They see the present as an opportune time to begin this undertaking. Their hope is to develop a milieu in which governments can act with conviction, supported, encouraged, and indeed prodded by an informed and responsible public opinion.

Peace, Justice & Reconciliation is published by Friendship Press as a resource study book for the current theme: Middle East Mosaic. Order *Peace, Justice & Reconciliation* from your local religious bookstore or from Cokesbury Mail Order Service Center, 201 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, TN 37202. The price is \$2.95.

in the future.

For now, however, China feeds her 960 million people by having 700 million of them engaged in agricultural pursuits (as compared with 3.7 million of them engaged in agricultural pursuits (as compared with 3.7 million Americans). In the past five years, China has increased its production of wheat until now it ranks only behind the United States and the Soviet Union. China has made great strides in multiple-cropping and in irrigation. However, a limited network of roads and railways, says Perry, severely limits the distribution of food products.

The Hiers brought back from China a feeling of satisfaction that that nation is moving toward the 21st century "like a thundering herd." Concerned as we are about the ability of our world to feed itself, we can rejoice that China's 960 million people are now largely self-sufficient so far as food is concerned.